


# A Flower For My Mom



By: Taylor Penn



For my Mom:  
May every sunflower be a hello, and tulip bloom be  
a kiss from me to you.

A photograph of a dirt path in a forest. The path is lined with large, bushy pink azaleas in full bloom. Tall, thin pine trees with green needles form a canopy over the path. The scene is bright and colorful, with sunlight filtering through the trees.

My Mom always loved  
flowers, and my Dad loved  
giving them to her. When he  
would travel there was always another  
beautiful bouquet left at the door with a  
sweet note.

Five years ago my Mom passed from a brain tumor,  
since then we always bring a couple of different bouquets to  
her grave that we know she adored.

After she passed away I began to research what each flower meant,  
so that when I left her flowers, they sent the perfect message.

Here are some facts about different flowers that most people don't know.



# Tulip

## Facts

The most common meaning for tulips is perfect or deep love.

“Use your tulips to kiss winter goodbye”

Their flower buds are known for being almost perfectly symmetrical

Tulips are part of the lily family

Tulips only bloom for 3-7 days in the spring

White tulips mean “I’m sorry.”

In the 1600s, Tulips were said to cost 10 times more than a working man’s average salary in the Netherlands, making them more valuable than some homes

The most common meaning for tulips is perfect or deep love.



# Sunflower

## Facts

*“Keep your face to the  
sunshine and you  
cannot see the shadow.  
It’s what sunflowers do.”*



Sunflowers are the only  
flowers with ‘flower’ in their name

Sunflowers are the symbol of faith, loyalty and  
adoration

Sunflower is the  
national flower of Ukraine, and is the state flower of Kansas.

Sunflowers are one of the  
fastest growing plants and they grow tall. On  
an average they grow up to 8-12 feet within six  
months

A single sunflower can have up to 2000 seeds.

Sunflower seeds are found in two ways black  
and striped.





# Rose

In Greek mythology, roses originated from Adonis, deity of plants and rebirth.

There are over 100 species of roses.

For hundreds of years the rose has been widely recognized as a symbol of love, sympathy or sorrow.

Pink roses were the first color rose cultivated, mostly because pink roses are most common in the wild.

Red rose is a symbol of love, yellow of friendship, orange of enthusiasm, white of purity and pink of joy.

There are over 4,000 songs dedicated to roses.

“ You can cry because roses have thorns, or you can rejoice because thorns have roses.”



# HYDRANGEA

“*Like hydrangeas,  
you must allow yourself to  
bleed. To fade from one truth  
to another like from  
blue to purple to pink.*”

## MEANINGS

HEARTFELT AND HONEST EMOTIONS OF ANY KIND

GRATITUDE AND THANKSGIVING TO SOMEONE ELSE

DEVELOPING A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN  
TWO PEOPLE

HEARTLESSNESS AND ACTING WITHOUT TH  
NKING ABOUT THE FEELINGS OF ANOTHER

FRIGIDITY AND DISINTEREST IN A ROMANTIC PROPOSAL

BOASTING AND BRAGGING ABOUT FALSE  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ABUNDANCE AND PROSPERITY

GRACE AND BEAUTY, SOMETIMES TAKEN TO AN EXTREME  
OF VANITY AND NARCISSISM

THE 4TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY FOR A COUPLE



# Magnolia 健

Magnolia officinalis bark is used in traditional Chinese medicine remedies to improve lung health and treat anxiety

Magnolias can be grown from seed but may take more than 10 years to begin flowering

Magnolia 'Atlas' boasts the biggest flowers, which can reach a whopping 14 inches across

Flowers are pollinated by beetles

It's the national flower of North Korea

In art, specifically Chinese art, the magnolia is used as a symbol of feminine sweetness and beauty.

Magnolias are the most ancient flowering plants; scientists have found fossils dating back millions of years ago

“Wherever life  
plants you, bloom  
with grace.”





# About the Author...

## *Taylor Penn*

Taylor Penn is a second year Journalism and Design student at The New School. She is twenty years old and originally from Cleveland, Ohio. She has a passion for yoga, running, and writing. She loves to travel and hopes to make her way to Australia in the near future. Taylor loves nature, the beauty of it, the curiosity it creates, and the fun you can have in it.

Growing up, she always went hiking, biking, and swimming with her family. Every spring, her family would pick out new flowers to plant in their garden and choose which one was their favorite. Whenever there was a patch of sunflowers, her Mom always made her and her siblings take a picture in front of them.

She believes flowers have so much meaning and they are spread around the world to create beauty for everyone. Taylor hopes you learn a little bit more about flowers from this book, and take a second to stop and smell one every once in a while.





With love.